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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/671,871	09/28/2000	Glenn G. Ward	82,144	8767

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Office of Counsel, Code 004
 Naval Surface Warfare Center
 Carderock Division
 9500 MacArthur Boulevard
 West Bethesda, MD 20817-5700

EXAMINER

FRENEL, VANEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3626

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/671,871

Applicant(s)

WARD ET AL.

Examiner

Vanel Frenel

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the After- Final and the Appeal Brief filed on 03/20/05. Claims 1-33 are pending.
2. Due to the amendment filed on 03/15/05 by the Applicant's, the Final Rejection of the Office Action mailed on 09/22/04 have been vacated and a new Office Action is hereby presented.

In view of the After-Final and the Appeal Brief filed on 03/15/05, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED as set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
- (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.

If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartsog (4,964,060) in view of Normann et al(5,557,537).

(A) As per claim 1, Hartsog discloses a method of organizing and effecting a dynamic workflow management system using a computer network that permits computer access to a server capable of containing a centralized database pertaining to said dynamic workflow management system (See Hartsog, Col.3, lines 61-68 to Col.4, line 56; Col.33, lines 35-68), said method comprising: identifying core functions (See Hartsog, Col.13, lines 10-68); producing information pertaining to said core functions, said information including plural individual workflow descriptions, each said individual workflow description describing a said core function and establishing at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description (See Hartsog, Col.20, lines 31-68); establishing core function units, said core function units at least substantially representing said core functions (See Hartsog, Col.3, lines 61-68); uploading to said server for storage in said centralized database a coherent presentation essentially integrating said information said coherent presentation encompassing a multiplicity of tasks, said coherent presentation representing an operational plan for performing all of said tasks. the performance of each said task commencing in a said core function unit, at least some said tasks being performed in plural said core function units based on said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow

description, said coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core function units, performing at least are said task, said performance of at least one said task including use of said coherent presentation (See Harsog, Col.17, lines 15-53). Harsog does not explicitly disclose updating said coherent presentation at least once, each said updated coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core function units, each said updating including uploading at least a portion of a said individual workflow description describing a said core function so as to render at least one change to the preceding said individual workflow description describing the same said core function, said at least one change including modification with respect to said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description.

However, this feature is known in the art, as evidenced by Normann. In particular, Normann suggests updating said coherent presentation at least once, each said updated coherent presentation being computer-accessible by said core function units, each said updating including uploading at least a portion of a said individual workflow description describing a said core function so as to render at least one change to the preceding said individual workflow description describing the same said core function, said at least one change including modification with respect to said at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description (See Norman, Fig.18, Col.24, lines 46-67 to Col.25, line 35).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the features of Normann within the system of Harsog with the

motivation of providing efficient design of the system, not only for its operation, but also its installation and cost (See Normann, Col.2, lines 44-46).

(B) As per claim 2, Hartsog discloses a method wherein said identifying core functions includes identifying external core functions selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management (See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 3-39).

(C) As per claim 3, Hartsog discloses a method wherein said identified core functions are external core functions including life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support; program management and platform management (See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 3-39).

(D) As per claim 4, Hartsog discloses a method wherein said identifying core functions includes identifying internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facility planning (See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 45-68).

(E) As per claim 5, Normann discloses a method wherein said identifying core functions includes identifying internal core functions selected from *the group* consisting of facilities, (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30).

(F) As per claim 6, Normann discloses a method, wherein said identified core functions are internal core functions including facilities, (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30).

(G) As per claim 7, Normann discloses a method wherein said identifying core functions includes dividing said core functions into external core functions and internal core functions (See Normann, Col.10, lines 13-52).

(H) As per claim 8, Hartsog discloses a method wherein said identified external core functions are selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, *test and* evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management (See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 3-39).

(I) As per claim 9, Normann discloses a method wherein said identified internal core functions are selected from the group consisting of facilities, budget and contracts (Normann discloses facilities such as layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping See Col.3, lines 15-30).

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(J) As per claim 10, Hartsog discloses a method wherein each said individual workflow description includes narrative description, procedural description and flow diagrammatic description (See Hartsog, Figs 8-10; Col.26, lines 32-68).

(K) As per claim 11, Hartsog discloses a method wherein said coherent presentation includes a manual, wherein said manual includes narrative description, procedural description and flow diagrammatic description for each core function (See Hartsog, Col.27, lines 11-68).

(L) As per claim 12, Hartsog discloses a method wherein said establishing core function units includes establishing external core function units selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management (The Examiner interprets design software with secret codes such as licensed architects and engineers to be a form of in –service engineering See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 3-26).

(M) As per claim 13, Normann discloses a method wherein said establishing core function units includes establishing internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30 of Norman).

(N) As per claim 14, Normann discloses a method wherein said establishing core function units includes: establishing external core function units selected from the group consisting of life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management (The Examiner interprets computer to be a form of integrated logistic support See Col.4, lines 6-15 of Normann); and establishing internal core functions selected from the group consisting of facilities, (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30 of Normann).

(O) As per claim 15, Normann discloses a method *wherein said* establishing core function units includes: establishing external core function units including life cycle management, acquisition, research and development, test and evaluation, in-service engineering, integrated logistic support, program management and platform management; and establishing internal core functions including facilities, budget and contracts (The Examiner interprets computer to be a form of integrated logistic support See Col.4, lines 6-15 of Normann).

(P) As per claim 16, Hartsog discloses a method said method further comprising instituting communications among said core function units, said instituting communications including instituting at *least one* type of communications selected from

the group consisting of *telephone*, telefax, paper correspondence and electronic mail
(See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 10-15).

(Q) As per claim 17, Hartsog discloses a method said method further comprising distributing hard copies of said coherent presentation among said core function units
(See Hartsog, Col.13, lines 10-68).

(R) As per claim 18, Hartsog discloses a method wherein said producing information pertaining to said core functions includes establishing plural teams, each said team being charged with submitting a section of said information that characterizes a different said core function (See Hartsog, Col.7, lines 14-65).

(S) As per claim 19, Hartsog discloses a method for defining and executing the flow of management operations of an organization, said method making use of a central computer and plural workstation computers connected to said central computer, said method comprising: establishing plural organizational units, each said organizational unit availing itself of at least one said workstation computer, said establishing including proposing initial core functions and assembling informational segments, each said informational segment describing the functional flow associated with a said initial core function, the functional flow associated with each said initial core function being characterized by at least one nexus between said functional flow and the functional flow associated with at least one other said initial care function, said establishing plural

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organizational units further including designating refined core functions (See Hartsog, Col.3, lines 61-68 to Col.4, line 56; Col.33, lines 35-68), said refined core functions at least substantially corresponding to said initial core functions, each said organizational unit performing a said refined core function (See Hartsog, Col.13, lines 10-68); formulating a manual that is at least substantially arranged in accordance with said organizational units and said refined core functions respectively performed by said organizational units, said manual covering at least substantially all of the undertakings of said organization, said manual at least substantially incorporating said informational segments so as to prescribe said flow of management operations both intrarelationally within each said organizational unit and intrarelationally between said organizational units, the functional flow associated with each said refined core function being characterized by at least one nexus between said functional flow and the functional flow associated with at least one other said refined core function, said manual prescribing action to be taken for carrying out each said undertaking, each said undertakings requiring action to be taken by at least one said organizational unit, at least some said undertakings requiring, action to be taken by at least two said organizational units, wherein each said undertaken that requires action to be taken by at least two said organizational units is carried out in accordance with at least one said nexus between two said functional flows associated with said relined core functions respectively performed by said at least two said organizational units (See Hartsog, Col.12, lines 3-58).

Hartsog does not explicitly disclose storing said manual in said central computer for computer access by said organizational units, said manual being stored in a form electronically modifiable by each said organizational unit; carrying out at least one said undertaking, at least one said undertaking being carried out so that action is taken by at least two said organizational units; and maintaining currency of said manual as stored in said central computer, said maintaining currency including electronically modifying of said manual, by at least one said organizational unit, with respect to at least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined core functions.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Normann. In particular, Normann teaches storing said manual in said central computer for computer access by said organizational units, said manual being stored in a form electronically modifiable by each said organizational unit; carrying out at least one said undertaking, at least one said undertaking being carried out so that action is taken by at least two said organizational units; and maintaining currency of said manual as stored in said central computer, said maintaining currency including electronically modifying of said manual, by at least one said organizational unit, with respect to at least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined core functions (See Normann, Col.4, lines 22-67; Col.6, lines 60-67 to Col.7, line 44).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the features of Normann within the system of Hartsog with the

motivation of providing efficient design of the system, not only for its operation, but also its installation and cost (See Normann, Col.2, lines 44-46).

(T)As per claim 20, Normann discloses a method for defining and executing the flow said method further comprising disseminating hard copies of said manual to said organizational units (See Normann, Col.1, lines 34-49).

(U) As per claim 21, Normann discloses a method for defining and executing the flow wherein said establishing plural organizational units includes establishing external core function units, said external core function units performing respective external core functions, said external core function units including life cycle management unit, acquisition unit, research and *development unit*, test and evaluation unit, in-service engineering unit, integrated logistic support unit, program management unit and platform management unit (The Examiner interprets computer to be a form of integrated logistic support See Col.4, lines 6-15 of Normann).

(V) As per claim 22, Normann discloses a method for defining and executing the flow wherein said establishing plural organizational units includes establishing internal core function units, said internal core function units performing respective internal core functions, said internal core function units including facilities unit (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30 of Normann).

(W) As per claim 23, Normann discloses a method for defining and executing the flow wherein said establishing plural organizational units includes: establishing external core function units, said external core function units performing respective external core functions, said external pore function units including life cycle management unit, acquisition unit, research and development unit, test and evaluation unit, in-service engineering unit, integrated logistic support unit, program management unit and platform management unit; and establishing internal core function units, said internal core function units performing respective internal core functions, said internal care function units including facilities unit (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30 of Normann).

(X) As per claim 24, Hartsog discloses a method for defining and executing the flow said method further comprising enabling communication among said organizational units in furtherance of said flow of management operations, wherein said enabling communication includes instituting at least two communication means selected from the group consisting of telephone, telefax, correspondence and e-mail (See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 10-15).

(Y) As per claim 25, Normann discloses a method for defining and executing the flow said maintaining currency including formulating a scheduling policy for continually improving said flow of management operations, said formulating a scheduling policy

including prescribing the periodic updating of said manual (See Normann, Col.2, lines 5-41).

(Z) As per claim 26, Normann discloses a method for defining and executing the flow wherein said periodic updating of said manual includes said electronically modifying of said manual (See Normann, Col.2, lines 5-41).

(AA) As per claim 27, Hartsog discloses a method for defining and executing the flow wherein said electronically modifying of said manual includes adding at least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined core functions (See Hartsog, Fig.2; Col.23, lines 42-59).

(BB) As per claim 28, Normann discloses a method for defining and executing the flow wherein said electronically modifying of said manual includes removing at least one nexus between the respective functional flows associated with at least two said refined core functions (See Hartsog, Fig.2; Col.23, lines 42-59).

5. Claims 29- 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartsog (4,964,060) in view of Normann et al (5,557,537) as applied to claims 1-28 above, and further in view of (Winchill 2.0 by Robert Mills; Computer-Aided Engineering. Cleveland: March 1999, Vol.18, Iss.3; pg.22, 3 pgs).

(A) As per claim 29, Hartsog discloses said uploaded, information constituting a comprehensive plan prescribing the performance of all of the pieces of work encompassed by said workflow said comprehensive plan admitting of performance of a said piece of work in at least substantially any portion of said comprehensive plan, wherein said uploaded information includes: a plurality of individual workflow descriptions each pertaining to a core functional unit and establishing at least one linkage of said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description, each piece of work being performed in accordance with at least one said individual workflow description, at least some said pieces of work being performed in accordance with at least two said individual workflow descriptions and at least one said linkage corresponding to said at least two said individual workflow descriptions (See Hartsog, Fig.3; Col.27, lines 10-68); revisionary input, said revisionary input revising said comprehensive plan each said revisionary input including at least a portion of a said individual workflow *description* so as to render at least one revision to the preceding said individual workflow description pertaining to the same said core functional unit, each said revisionary input revising said comprehensive plan with respect to said at least one linkage of a said individual workflow description with at least one other said individual workflow description (See Normann, Col.21, lines 16-65).

Hartsog and Normann do not explicitly disclose a computer-networked system for performing workflow management, said system comprising a plurality of clients and a *server, said server* being configured to maintain a centralized database relating to said workflow management that is computer-accessible by said clients, said server being

further configured to receive, in said centralized database, information uploaded by any of said clients.

However, these features are known in the art, as evidenced by Mills. In particular, Mills teaches a computer-networked system for performing workflow management, said system comprising a plurality of clients and a *server, said server* being configured to maintain a centralized database relating to said workflow management that is computer-accessible by said clients, said server being further configured to receive, in said centralized database, information uploaded by any of said clients (See Mills, Page 2, Paragraphs 1-10 through Page 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have included the combined teachings of Hartsog and Normann with the motivation of providing readily available computer resources which allows the data to be accessed widely and which ease maintenance of the entire system, (See Mills, Page 1, Paragraph1).

(B) As per claim 30, Normann discloses a system for performing workflow management wherein said core functional units comprise external core functional units including a life cycle management unit, an acquisition unit, a research and development unit, a test and evaluation unit, an in-service engineering unit, an integrated logistic support unit, a program management unit and a platform management unit unit (The Examiner interprets computer to be a form of integrated logistic support See Col.4, lines 6-15 of Normann).

(C) As per claim 31, Normann discloses a system for performing workflow management wherein said core functional units comprise internal core functional units including a facilities unit (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30 of Normann).

(D) As per claim 32, Normann discloses a system for performing workflow management wherein said core functional units comprise: external core functional units including a life cycle management unit, an acquisition unit, a research and development unit, a test and evaluation unit an in-service engineering unit an integrated logistic support unit, a program management unit and a platform management unit (The Examiner interprets computer to be a form of integrated logistic support See Col.4, lines 6-15 of Normann); and internal core functional units including a facilities unit a budget unit and a contracts unit (The Examiner interprets layout, light, ventilating, sprinklers and piping to be a form of facilities See Col.3, lines 15-30 of Normann).

(E) As per claim 33, Hartsog discloses a system for performing workflow management said system further comprising computer-based communication means and non computer-based communication means, wherein said computer-based communication means includes electronic mail, and wherein said non-computer-based communication means includes telephone, facsimile transmission and written correspondence (See Hartsog, Col.11, lines 3-45).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 03/15/05 with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited but not applied art teaches E-maintenance management by Andrew Marks; Chain Store Age; New York; May 2000; Vol.76; Iss.5; pg.302, 1 pgs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanel Frenel whose telephone number is 571-272-6769. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30am-5:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

V.F
V.F

June 9, 2005


JOSEPH THOMAS
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